



WELLINGTON (SOM) RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1953.

By

DR. HUGH MORRISON

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



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WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1953.

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WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1953.

I. GENERAL

Area (in Acres)	37,911.
Estimate of Resident Population, mid year 1953	7,773.
Census Population (Preliminary Report-1951)	7,804.
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books on 31st December, 1953	2,466.
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1953	£32,263.
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate, 31st December, 1953	£144. 0. 6.

II. EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR, 1953

	M.	F.	TOTAL
Live Births:-			
(a) Legitimate	56	58	114
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
	57	63	120
(b) Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			15.43.

Still births:-			
(a) Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	0.64.
(b) Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	40.0.

Deaths:-	
(a) Total	90
(b) Rate per 1,000. of the estimated resident population	11.57.

	Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Births
From puerperal sepsis	-	-
From other maternal causes	-	-
Of infants under one year of age	-	-
Legitimate	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-
Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births	-	-
Rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	-	-
Rate for illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	-	-
From cancer (all ages)... ..	16	-
From measles (all ages)	-	-
From whooping cough (all ages)	-	-
From diarrhoea (under two years of age)	-	-
Rates for England and Wales as a whole:-		
Live births per 1,000 civilian population		15.5.
Stillbirths per 1,000 civilian population		0.35.
Deaths (all causes) per 1,000 civilian population		11.4.
Maternal Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (Live and still births)		0.76.
Infant Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (Live and still births)		26.8.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1953

	M.	F.	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other.....	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease.....	-	-	-
Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
Measles.....	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	6	4	10
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	1	-	1
Diabetes.....	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	6	5	11
Coronary disease, angina.....	3	7	10
Hypertension with heart disease.....	1	3	4
Other heart disease.....	11	4	15
Other circulatory disease.....	5	6	11
Influenza.....	1	2	3
Pneumonia.....	2	-	2
Bronchitis.....	2	-	2
Other diseases of respiratory system.....	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis.....	2	-	2
Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-	-
Congenital malformation.....	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	1	2	3
Motor vehicle accidents.....	2	-	2
All other accidents.....	1	-	1
Suicide.....	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-	-
All causes - Total	52	38	90

INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1953

There were no deaths in infants up to the age of one year.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

DOMICILIARY SERVICES

There are three general medical practitioners living and carrying on practice in the rural district. Practitioners from Wellington and from the neighbouring districts also cover some of the territory. There are adequate arrangements, when required, for domiciliary consultation with consultants serving the Taunton and West Somerset Area, and speaking generally, the practice of medicine in the district is of a high standard. The provisions for domiciliary nursing are satisfactory and excellent work has been done by the Home Help Service administered by the Somerset County Council.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Hospital Services of the district are administered by the Taunton Hospital Management Committee, under the general direction of the S.W. Region Hospital Board. Some of the provisions for the needs of various types of patient are detailed below:-

(1) General Medical and Surgical

The Taunton and Somerset Hospital together with Musgrove Park Hospital which is also situated in the Borough of Taunton, and which is probably eventually destined to supersede the first-named establishment, cater for most medical and surgical conditions. Musgrove Park Hospital takes most of the adult cases, and also has a comprehensive Paediatric Department. The Taunton and Somerset Hospital is in the meantime dealing with Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology and Ear, Nose, and Throat work. It also houses the Casualty Department for the area. Both hospitals have out-patient facilities in addition to in-patient beds. Certain cases requiring special investigation or treatment such as neurosurgery or radiotherapy are referred to Bristol Hospitals for this purpose. Wellington Cottage Hospital provides valuable facilities for local cases which do not require to be sent to larger institutions, and complete consultant cover is available for the work carried out there.

(2) Infectious Diseases

Cases of infectious diseases from Wellington Rural District are sent to the Taunton Isolation Hospital, situated in the Borough of Taunton. This hospital was administered up to 4th July, 1948, by a Joint Hospital Board, representing the various districts from which cases were admitted. Since that date, administration has passed to the Regional Hospital Board, with day to day management being carried out by the Taunton Hospital Management Committee. There are three large wards for the isolation and treatment of patients suffering from the commoner epidemic diseases, but these have become less useful since Diphtheria has become a rare condition, chiefly owing to the success of the national immunisation campaign, and since Scarlet Fever has apparently entered a mild phase in which most of the cases can be successfully isolated and nursed at home. The bulk of the Isolation Hospital work is done in a more recently constructed cubicle block. The hospital has been admitting in the past year or two many cases, especially among children, of various pyrexial and nutritional illnesses not coming into the strict category of notifiable diseases, which would formerly have been treated in General Hospitals. Home isolation is carried out wherever the home conditions are satisfactory. Most cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are admitted to the Isolation Hospital and also cases of Puerperal Pyrexia.

Tuberculosis. Cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the Regional Hospital Board for treatment which is supervised by the Chest Physicians for the area. The Sanatoria are at Quantock, Wincanton, and Taunton for Pulmonary cases. Cases requiring Orthopaedic treatment are admitted to Chard Sanatorium and to Bath Orthopaedic Hospital. Pre-Tubercular children and children with Tubercular Glands are sent to Compton Bishop Children's Home, near Axbridge.

Poliomyelitis: Suspected cases are sent for diagnosis to the Taunton Isolation Hospital. If the condition is confirmed they are seen by Regional Specialists who arrange for continuation treatment either as out-patients or as in-patients at Bath Orthopaedic Hospital.

Small-pox: Provision for the accommodation of cases of Small-pox is made at a Hospital at Cossington, near Bridgwater. Fortunately there has been no need to use the institution for this purpose for many years.

General Medical and Surgical: Investigation and treatment facilities are provided at the Cottage Hospital in Wellington and at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital. Some cases of a more special type are sent to Bristol.

Chronic Sick: Patients are received into Hospitals, chiefly those in Taunton and Wellington, which have now passed from Public Assistance administration to that of the Regional Hospital Board. The status and reputation of these institutions is improving, more or less rapidly, as their association with the less desirable features of the old Poor Law fades from public memory. A geriatric service for the Taunton area is on process of development.

It was not found necessary during the course of the year to seek powers for the compulsory removal from their homes of persons in need of care and attention under the procedure provided in the National Assistance Act, 1948. In a number of cases, however, preliminary steps were taken and transfer to hospital was arranged on a voluntary basis.

Mental Sick: Cases are admitted to the Mental Hospital at Tone Vale, near Taunton. The psychiatric specialists conduct out-patients clinics for the area, and it is felt that now, more than ever before, mental patients are having the benefit of treatment at an earlier and more hopeful stage of the disease.

Mentally defective cases are well provided for at Sandhill Park Hospital which is situated in Taunton Rural District.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Tuberculosis:

Clinics for patients suffering from this disease and for the supervision of suspects and contacts, are held by the Chest Physicians at Musgrove Park Hospital. There is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with these clinics. Mass radiography has been carried out from time to time on various groups of the County population, by a team working from a centre in Bristol, but this service has not been called upon to deal with residents in Wellington Rural District.

Venereal Disease:

A combined Clinic and Treatment Centre is carried on at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital which caters for male and female patients of this and surrounding districts. The centre has now come under the administration of the Regional Hospital Board.

Early cases of syphilis are usually sent to Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, for a fortnight's intensive penicillin treatment as in-patients. Afterwards they continue observation and treatment at the Taunton Clinic.

Maternity and Child Welfare:

The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the Health Visitors and Midwives practising within the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District of Wellington to which a considerable number of women from the Rural District are admitted for confinement. Obstetric Consultants in Taunton are available for consultation with Medical Practitioners in the District. Abnormal and complicated cases can be admitted for hospital treatment when necessary. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the Medical Staff of the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities:

The Public Health Laboratory Service has a Laboratory in Taunton at which all the usual specimens connected with Public Health work, such as throat and nose swabs, blood, faeces, and sputum are examined. The Staff of the Laboratory also give very useful assistance in the investigation of epidemic outbreaks. Chemical Analyses are carried out as requested by the County Analyst who has his Laboratory in Taunton.

Ambulance Facilities:

Ambulance transport for all cases has now become the responsibility of the Somerset County Council. A central ambulance department has been set up which arranges for vehicles to be provided as required.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply:

There are ten public supplies, five of them chlorinated, and these serve about half the population of the district. They are regularly tested and are generally satisfactory in quality. Some of the areas supplied by them, particularly Langford Budville, experience water shortage from time to time. There are also a number of private piped supplies which yield somewhat variable qualities of water, but which are kept under close supervision. The rest of the district is supplied mainly from wells, most of which come into the shallow category and are subject to contamination. Speaking generally, there is room for great improvement in the water supply of the district, and amongst the schemes projected to provide this improved supply are a link with the Clatworthy scheme which is in course of development by the Taunton Borough Council: a scheme to supply the south-western part of the district from a borehole at Ashbrittle and springs at Payton, near Wellington, and separate small schemes for the outlying areas of Waterrow and Bathcalton. Details of the water supply position in the various parishes are furnished in a later portion of this report.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:

There are adequate arrangements for water-carriage of sewage in Wiveliscombe, Hilverton, the region of Ham in the parish of West Buckland and the region of Holywell Lake in the village of Wellington Without. In these areas the disposal of sewage is not entirely satisfactory in part of Wiveliscombe and Holywell Lake. A number of other villages and hamlets have piped drainage arrangements but quite inadequate treatment of sewage. The remainder of the district is dependent on septic tanks and pail closets. Public Health and amenity demand improved sewerage provisions, and this need grows particularly urgent when main water

supplies become widely distributed.

Public Cleansing:

Household refuse is collected weekly from Wiveliscombe and Milverton and monthly from the rest of the district, and is disposed of by tipping. It is felt that one month is too long a period for refuse to be allowed to accumulate, particularly in the hotter season of the year.

Housing:

The provision of houses by the Council has gone on steadily through the year, and since the end of the past war about 160 of these have been built. This, however, has had little appreciable effect on the waiting list of families requiring accommodation, and therefore continued efforts in this direction will be required for some time to come. Older property in the district is suffering a gradual but inevitable deterioration with the passage of time, and it is hoped that work may soon begin on clearing the worst of this property and rehousing the occupants.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The most striking feature of the year in connection with infectious diseases was the occurrence of a severe and widespread epidemic of measles. There were 141 cases of this disease, which has a tendency to assume epidemic proportions every second year in any particular area. Poliomyelitis, which was epidemic in England and Wales and particularly prevalent in the south-west of England during the summer of 1953, provided two cases in Wellington Rural District.

The following table shows the number of notifications received for Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) age group and numbers admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital:-

DISEASES	TOTAL	AGE GROUP								No. admitted to Isolation Hospital.
		0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25 and over	Not known	
Whooping Cough	63	3	12	13	30	1	1	2	1	1
Measles	141	3	20	30	77	8	3	-	-	1
Scarlatina	6	-	1	1	2	-	1	-	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
	212	6	33	44	109	10	6	2	2	5

The following table shows some of the notification rates for Wellington Rural District compared with those for England and Wales taken as a whole.

<u>DISEASE</u>	Notification Rates for	
	Wellington R.D.	England and Wales
Whooping Cough	8.09	3.58
Measles	18.13	12.36
Scarlet Fever	0.77	1.39

The above figures are calculated Rates per 1,000 civilian population.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis

For the thirteenth year in succession, no cases of Diphtheria have occurred in the district. This very gratifying state of affairs is to be attributed largely to the Immunisation Campaign which has been in progress since the early 1940's. Immunisation is carried out by the general medical practitioners in the district and also by the medical staff of the Somerset County Council. It is felt that the opportunity should be taken of stating in this report that the recent trend as regards Diphtheria immunisation has not been entirely satisfactory. It is found that parents are becoming more difficult to convince of the necessity for this measure and are tending to postpone immunisation to a later age. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that all children should be immunised well before reaching the age of one year, and that this protection should be reinforced by a boosting injection at the time when the child is ready to go to school. If the general level of immunisation in the population is allowed to drop, there is no doubt that Diphtheria is almost certain to appear again in our midst with all its attendant dangers to the health and lives of our children.

It is estimated that there are in the district 1,724 children under the age of 15 years.

The following table gives the total number of children who are known to have completed a course of immunisation at the ages stated:-

Age	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under 15
Year of birth	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1944 - 48	1939 - 43.	
Number Immunised	3	53	74	75	79	434	84	802

TUBERCULOSIS. NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1953

The following form of return is required by the Ministry of Health:-

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -10.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 -15.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -20.....	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
20 -25.....	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -35.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -45.....	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45 -55.....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not known.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.....	1	3	1	2	-	-	-	-

At the end of the year the Tuberculosis Registers contained the names and addresses of 25 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 14 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Tuberculosis in the milk trade, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

The Local Authority have no special arrangements of their own under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for assisting in the prevention and treatment of Blindness. Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, which used to be a potent cause of blindness, are promptly notified to the appropriate Department of the County Council and so obtain early treatment if necessary in the Isolation Hospital.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

WATER SUPPLY

Public Supplies serve the following areas :-

<u>Milverton P.S.</u>	Parish of Milverton (except certain outlying parts).
<u>Wiveliscombe P.S.</u>	Parish of Wiveliscombe.
<u>Chipstable P.S.</u>	Chipstable Village.
<u>Sampford Moor P.S.</u>	Sampford Moor Village.
<u>Langley P.S.</u>	Lower part of Langley.
<u>Langley Marsh P.S.</u>	Part of Langley Marsh.
<u>Taunton Borough Supply</u>	Bradford-on-Tone West Buckland (part) Oake.
<u>Taunton R.D.C. (Bagborough) Supply</u>	Fitzhead.
<u>Langford Budville P.S.</u>	Langford Budville Village.
<u>Blackmoor P.S.</u>	Village of Blackmoor (in Parish of West Buckland).

Small Supplies vested in the Council by virtue of Sect: 124 Public Health Act, 1936, serve the following areas :-

<u>Ashbottle (Public Pump)</u>	- Ashbottle Village.
<u>Bathealton (Public Pump)</u>	- Bathealton Village.
<u>Stawley</u>	- Greenham and Tracebridge.
<u>Wellington Without</u>	- Holywell Lake (part).
<u>Thorne St. Margaret</u>	- Village (part).
<u>Wiveliscombe Without</u>	- Maun-down (part).

There are private piped supplies at :-

<u>Milverton</u>	- Springgrove.
<u>Langford Budville</u>	- Bindon - Wellisford - Kittisford.
<u>Stawley</u>	- Appley - Cothay - Kittisford.
<u>Wellington Without</u>	- Holywell Lake (part).
<u>West Buckland</u>	- Poole.

The remainder of the district is supplied by individual wells, (mainly shallow), springs etc. Many of these are contaminated and some are liable to fail.

The following supplies are chlorinated :-

Wiveliscombe P.S. (except borehole).
 Milverton P.S. (except borehole).
 Taunton Borough Supply.
 Blackmoor P.S.
 Langford Budville - Higher & Lower Wellsmead Supplies.

Users of water obtained from supplies at Ashbrittle, Holywell Lake, Tracebridge and Thorne St. Margaret have been advised that the water should be boiled.

The Langford Budville and Langley supplies are subject to shortages.

Means of chlorination have been provided in the Blackmoor P.S. and the Higher & Lower Wellsmead Supplies at Langford Budville. A borehole has been sunk at Ashbrittle; this water is shown by bacteriological and chemical reports to be suitable for use as a public supply and tests appear to show that this supply, together with springs at Payton in the Wellington Urban District, will be sufficient for the South Western part of the district.

Bacteriological examinations and chemical analyses were made with the following results :- PIPED SUPPLIES

<u>RAW WATER</u>				<u>TREATED WATER</u>			
BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL		BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL	
Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.
57	55	14	Nil	27	Nil	1	Nil

<u>WELL WATER</u>			
<u>SATISFACTORY</u>		<u>UNSATISFACTORY</u>	
CHEMICAL	BACTERIOLOGICAL	CHEMICAL	BACTERIOLOGICAL
2	26	Nil	41

None of the supplies are known to have plumbo-solvent action.

WATER SUPPLIES FROM PUBLIC MAINS

Direct to Houses

By Standpipes

No. of Dwellinghouses	Population	No. of Dwellinghouses	Popln
936	3,309	119	398

Future Proposals

1. Supply the South Western part of the district from the new borehole at Ashbrittle and Springs at Payton.
2. The village of Bathealton to be supplied from springs.

3. The village of Waterrow to be supplied from springs.
4. Supply the remainder of the district not already served (including the augmentation of present supplies) from the Taunton Borough Clatworthy Scheme.

The following Summary shows in alphabetical order, the present water supplies in the District by Parishes, giving their acreage and population according to the Census of 1951.

ASHERITTLE: 2,158 Acres. 190 Population.

Pump on Village Green. Remainder by wells.

BATHEALTON: 2,598 Acres. 190 Popn.,

Pump to well near Rectory. Remainder by wells and springs.

BRADFORD: 1,814 Acres. 440 Popn.,

Piped supply through Parish from Taunton Corporation mains.

CHIPSTABLE: 2,455 Acres. 290 Popn.,

Well supply laid on to seven houses - Standpipes for remainder of village. Remainder of parish, wells and springs, mainly unsatisfactory.

FITZHEAD: 1,247 Acres. 210 Popn.,

Piped supply from Taunton R.D., mains at Halse. All but three houses are supplied from this main.

LANGFORD BUDVILLE: 2,234 Acres. 390 Popn.,

The three small piped supplies were acquired by the Council during 1949.

Two of these supplies are now chlorinated.

Shortages are experienced at times.

MILVERTON: 3,465 Acres. 1,250 Popn.,

Piped supply from covered reservoir at Furbers Well. Minimum Yield 12,000 G.P.D., normal 30,000 G.P.D.,

Two springs below Furbers Well. Minimum Yield 3,400 G.P.D., normal 40,000 G.P.D.,

Pumped to reservoir by Diesel 3 h.p., Lister Engine with Easton and Johnson Treble Ram Pump, 2,500 G.P.H., or Lister 2½ h.p., Petrol Engine, 1,400 G.P.H., Borehole at Olands feeds into 6-inch trunk main by means of Beresford Submersible Electric Pump with booster pump at ground level. Output 1,400 G.P.H.,

Outlying parts of the parish are not supplied from the main, Preston Bowyer is served by two private supplies. On analysis one of these is generally satisfactory; the other varies bacteriologically. Springrove is supplied by a small private piped supply.

NYNEHEAD: 1,706 Acres. 350 Popn.,

16 Council houses supplied through pipes by storage tank and electric pump from well, known to be contaminated.

Private piped supply and private wells. Most of the wells are shallow and the supplies unsatisfactory. Complaints are received of shortages on the piped supply.

OAKE: 1,754 Acres. 360 Popn.,

Mains (extended from the Taunton Corporation Supply) serve most of the Parish and only a few houses remain to be connected to the supply.

SAMPFORD ARUNDEL: 1,216 Acres. 310 Popn.,

Sampfard Moor is supplied by spring from covered collecting tank and piped t-o hamlet.

Remainder springs and wells.

STAWLEY: 2,663 Acres. 270 Popn.,

Greenham :- Small piped supply.

Tracebridge :- Small supply (known to be contaminated) one standpipe.

Privately owned piped supplies serve properties at Appley, Cothay and Kittisford.

Remainder by wells and springs.

THORNE ST. MARGARET: 824 Acres. 90 Popn.,

There is one small piped supply in the centre of the village known to be contaminated.

The remainder is supplied by springs and wells.

WELLINGTON WITHOUT: 2,933 Acres. 480 Popn.,

Holywell Lake is supplied by public springs with shute, and a privately owned piped supply.

Remainder is by wells and springs.

WEST BUCKLAND: 3,739 Acres. 810 Popn.,

Blackmoor is supplied by spring from covered collection tank and piped to hamlet. This supply is now chlorinated. West Buckland village and district has piped supply from Taunton Corporation mains.

WIVELISCOMBE: 201 Acres. 1,224 Popn.,

Water is obtained from springs at Withycombe gathering ground to a covered reservoir and piped to the Town. Minimum Yield 16,000 G.P.D., Capacity of reservoir 36,000 gallons. The water is chlorinated, the plant being a Wallace and Tiernan Automatic Chlorometer in duplicate. Water is obtained from a borehole 285 feet deep and pumped by a 15 h.p., Electric Motor direct mounted on a vertical spindle deep well turbine pump with 14 stages at bottom, 4 stages booster pump at top.

(Mirrlees Watson Engineering Co., Ltd., Glasgow). Delivers 5,400 gallons per hour into 4 inch service main from reservoir. The plant is not duplicated.

WIVELISCOMBE WITHOUT: 5,904 Acres. 950 Popn.,

Langley Cross and Lower Langley supplied by spring from covered collection tank and piped to hamlet.

Borehole at Langley Marsh serves seven properties.

Small Spring supply at Maundown. Remainder springs and wells.

Sewage Disposal

Milverton - The work of relaying ~~some~~ sewers and the reconstruction of the disposal works was in progress at the end of the year. Extension of sewers to Preston Bowyer was deleted from the Council's proposals by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

A scheme for the reconstruction of the Hillsmoor Sewage Disposal

Works is being prepared for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Proposals are also being prepared for the extension of sewers at Oake.

Other schemes to be prepared are for sewerage and sewage disposal at Bradford, West Buckland, Nynhead, Langford Budville, Fitzhead and Sampford Arundel. There is a demand for drainage facilities in most villages particularly where main water has been provided.

The existing Sewerage and Sewage Disposal of the district is as follows :-

ASHBRITTLE: 2,158 Acres. 190 Population.

Septic tank for four Council houses.

A sewer in the centre of the village taking waste water only.

A few properties have septic tanks but most have pail closets, with waste water drainage to ditches etc.

BATHEALTON: 2,598 Acres. 190 Popn.,

A few privately owned septic tanks.

Others have slop water drains to ditches, etc., and pail closets.

BRADFORD: 1,814 Acres. 440 Popn.,

Most properties in the centre of the village drain by a sewer to Gingleys Pit near the roadside leading to Hele. This gives rise to nuisances.

Eight Council Houses drain to a septic tank and filter.

Four new Council Houses and two other houses drain to disposal works at Regent Green.

Properties at Heatherton are sewered to septic tanks.

Certain other properties have private septic tanks.

CHIPSTABLE: 3,455 Acres. 290 Popn.,

There is a small sewer taking waste water only in the centre of the village.

Various other properties have septic tanks, including four Council houses at Waterrow and four at Chipstable Village.

Some properties at Waterrow drain to the river but little nuisance is experienced on account of heavy dilution with river water.

FITZHEAD: 1,247 Acres. 210 Popn.,

Sewers serving most of the village are unsatisfactory and there are no proper disposal works. Complaints of nuisance arise from time to time. Council houses have separate disposal works, one at Church Road being unsatisfactory.

LANGFORD BUDVILLE: 2,234 Acres. 390 Popn.,

Most of the village drains to a field known as Petersmead, but although most of the drainage passes through septic tanks, a nuisance is caused on adjoining fields.

Certain other properties drain to a ditch at the rear of the Martlett Inn. Most properties have W.C.'s but some have pails.

MILVERTON: 3,465 Acres. 1,250 Popn.,

Two settlement tanks with scumboards - total capacity about 20,000 gallons and effluent then passes over seven weirs, through about 700 yards of open land treatment to Hillfarrance brook.

Sewage from certain properties at Preston Bowyer passes into open ditches.

NYNEHEAD: 1,706 Acres. 350 Popn.,

The school and certain other properties connect to a small sewer at Lower Nynehead.

There are no disposal works and pollution and nuisance are caused.

16 Council Houses are drained to a septic tank and filter. These works are inadequate. A few other properties have septic tanks but most of the cottages have pail closets with slop-water drainage to ditches, etc.

OAKE: 1,754 Acres. 360 Popn.,

26 Council Houses drain to new disposal works. A small sewerage scheme drains without treatment to a ditch. Four other Council houses drain to a septic tank with overflow to a ditch. The number of private drainage systems with septic tanks etc. is increasing.

SAMPFORD ARUNDEL: 1,216 Acres. 310 Popn.,

There are small sewers serving properties at Sampford Moor, Sampford Village and Beambridge. Nuisances are created by the discharge of sewage into ditches.

Four Council houses drain to a septic tank and filter.

STAWLEY: 2,663 Acres. 270 Popn.,

Certain houses have septic tanks but most houses have pail closets and slop-water drainage to ditches.

Stawley School and four new Council houses at Appley drain to septic tank and filter.

THORNE ST. MARGARET: 824 Acres. 90 Popn.,

Private tanks to some houses.

Remainder have pail closets.

WELLINGTON WITHOUT: 2,933 Acres. 480 Popn.,

There is a sewer with temporary disposal works at Holywell Lake.

Certain other properties have septic tanks and other pail closets with waste water, drainage to soakaways etc.

WEST BUCKLAND: 3,739 Acres. 810 Popn.,

Council house estates and certain other properties drain to septic tanks. Most of the village drainage discharges into a ditch near the school and gives rise to nuisance.

About 30 houses at Ham drain to tanks and filter; other sewers exist at Hockaller and Willowbrook.

Certain other properties have pail closets.

WIVELISCOMBE: 201 Acres. 1,224 Popn.,

All properties drain to sewers which take a good deal of surface water also and are mainly defective.

Sewage passes to two sewage works at Hillsmoor and Style.

Hillsmoor: Treatment consists of screening and settling only. The effluent passing into the stream is unsatisfactory.

Style: These works have been reconstructed and take sewage from Langley.

WIVELISCOMBE WITHOUT: 5,904 Acres. 950 Popn.,

Sewers have been laid at Langley and Langley Marsh, and most of the properties are connected.

Four Council houses at Croford and certain other properties drain to septic tanks.

Other houses have pail closets.

Public Cleansing

Refuse Collections are made as follows :-

Weekly: Wiveliscombe and Milverton.

Monthly: Remainder of the district (except certain remote properties).

All refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at the Milverton Tip. There are now few complaints of nuisance and rat infestation.

Tipping of refuse at Whiteball by the Wellington Urban District Council ceased during the year and the tip has been satisfactorily sealed.

Refuse is collected by direct labour using a covered vehicle.

Schools

During the year water was laid on to Stawley School from a borehole serving four Council houses. This replaces a contaminated supply.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

The following are details of inspections made during the year:-

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises (1)	Number on Register. (3)	Number of		
		Inspection tions (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	11	15	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	23	47	3	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL -	34	62	4	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred TO H.M. Inspector	Referred BY H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	2	2	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	4	-	-	-

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number and Nature of Inspections during the year 1953:-

Dwellinghouses.....	1252
Food Premises	95
Places where animals are kept (other than cowsheds).....	1
Infectious Diseases enquiries and disinfections.....	12
Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.....	62
Water supplies.....	297
Drainage.....	497
Miscellaneous.....	118
	<hr/>
	2334

Number of Notices served during the year:-

Informal Notices.....	74
Statutory Notices.....	14

Result of Service of Notices:-

Total Notices complied with.....	82
Notices standing over at the end of 1953.....	6
Shops and Offices (Under the provisions of Sec. 13 (3) of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature and sa-nitary conveniences of shops), visits made.....	18
Camping Sites - Licences issued by the Council (Sec. 269 Public Health Act, 1936) authorising the use of moveable dwellings.....	14
Applications refused.....	1
Smoke Abatement - Complaints of nuisance dealt with and abatement secured.....	NIL
Swimming Baths and Pools - 8 samples were taken for bacteriological examination. All of these were reported as satisfactory These are in respect of a swimming bath at Wiveliscombe which is fed by a spring subject to contamination. The water is chlorinated by the addition of a chlorine solution.	
Eradication of Bed-bugs - Cases of bed bugs infestation found during the year.....	NIL
Offensive Trades - Number of offensive trades in the District within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936.	NIL
Water - Samples of piped supplies examined periodically during the year.....	154
Bakehouses - Number of inspections of the four Bakehouses in the District..... Three of the bakehouses draw their water supply from public mains.	19

Food.

1. Number of food premises in the area.....	45
2. Number of food premises registered under Section 14 - for sale of Ice Cream	12
for preparation of other food.....	3
3. Number of inspections to registered food premises.....	26

No Ice Cream is made in the area. Sales are of pre-packed ice cream in every case.

4. Clean food guilds etc. are impracticable owing to the scattered nature of the district.
5. Condemned foods are disposed of by incineration.
6. No special examination of a stock or consignment of food has been necessary.

There are no Government Slaughterhouses or Bacon Factories in the District. Meat sold by retail has been examined prior to delivery but occasional small quantities are condemned.

The following foods were surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption :-

Canned foods..... 63 tins.
Beef..... 122 lbs.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks - No outbreaks of food poisoning have occurred in the District during the year under review.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1950.

Number of Registered retailers (not including producer-retailers)..... 2
Inspections..... 4

Tuberculosis Order 1925

Cows slaughtered during the year under this order..... NIL

Ice-cream - There are no-w no producers of ice cream. Twelve premises are registered for the sale of pre-packed ice cream. Samples taken gave the following results:-

10 samples..... Grade 1.
3 samples..... Grade 2.

Rodent Control - An operator is employed jointly with Taunton R.D.C. During the year the sewers, sewage disposal works and refuse dumps were treated systematically. Private dwelling-houses and business premises were also treated.

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District.	9	2015	313	309	2646
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1953 as a result of (a) notification (b) survey or otherwise.	(a) -	102	17	2	121
	(b) 9	149	201	60	419
III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats.	Major -	14	9	2	25
	Minor 8	131	63	7	209

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	
IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice.	-	16	-	1	17
V. Number of infested properties (under III) & (under IV) treated by the Local Authority.	8	145	1	5	159
VI. Number of notices served under Section 4:-					
(1) Treatment	-	-	27	2	29
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	-	-	3	2	5
VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4.	-	-	-	-	-
VIII. Legal Proceedings.	-	-	-	-	-
IX. Number of "block" control schemes carried out10:.....					

River Pollution - Most of the streams in the district are polluted in varying degrees but until new sewage disposal works are provided or existing works are reconstructed (particularly those at Milverton and Hillsmoor, Wiveliscombe) there will be no improvement.

HOUSING.

Overcrowding - Five houses were recorded as legally overcrowded at the end of the year.

16 houses condemned under the Housing Act, 1936 are still occupied under licence (Regulation 68A - Defence (General) Regulations, 1939).

In addition 7 cottages are under Requisition Orders by authority of the same Regulation.

Action taken continues on the lines of essential repairs - usually by informal notices - and by the serving of notices under Section 11 of the Housing Act in the case of very defective houses, usually when the tenant is rehoused. 49 such cases have been so dealt with since 1945 resulting in :-

13 demolished.
5 Demolition Orders.
19 houses closed.
9 houses made fit.
3 houses lost due to conversions.

Substantial repairs and improvements have been carried out to 164 other houses.

The need for the re-introduction of Clearance Area procedure becomes increasingly apparent but this must remain in abeyance until a number of Council houses can be allocated for re-housing purposes.

Improvements and reconstructions of individual houses are being carried out in a few cases and these could be increased by wider use of the financial assistance provided for in Part II of the Housing Act, 1949.

The Council's "points" scheme for the allocation of Council houses is designed to give priority to cases where the following conditions exist :- overcrowding (based on bedroom deficiency); sharing accommodation; defective housing; etc.

Council Houses

The following table shows the parishes in which the Council have erected houses under the various Acts :-

Parish	Address	No. of Houses	Total for Parish
Ashbottle	Rectory Road	4	4
Bathealton	-	-	-
Bradford-on-Tone	Regent Green	4	
	Tone Green	8	12
Chipstable	Miltons	4	
	Waterrow	4	8
Fitzhead	Church Road	4	
	Hills Cottages	6	10
Langford			
Budville	Reynolds	6	6
Milverton	Lower Fairfield	8	
	Fairfield Terrace	8	
	Newfield	4	
	Courtfield	40	
	Houndsmoor	4	
	Doltons	2	
	Torrells, Hillcommon	4	
	Creedwell	6	76
Nynehead	Farthings Close	16	16

Parish	Address	No. of Houses	Total for Parish
Oake	Bridge Cottages	4	
	Oake Close	26	30
Sampford Arundel	Breach Hill	4	4
Stawley	Appley Cross	4	4
Wellington W'out	Lake Cottages, Holywell Lake	4	4
West Buckland	Sawyers Hill	4	
	Holway Cottages	4	
	Budgetts Cross	8	
	Castle Cottages, Ham	26	
	Crown Hill	10	52
Wiveliscombe	Northgate	53	
	Southgate	28	81
Wiveliscombe	Croford	4	
Without	Langley Cross	14	
	Plain Pond	72	
	Langley Marsh	4	94

TOTAL

401

Council tenants are responsible for the internal maintenance of their houses and a small bonus is allowed to the tenants whose houses are satisfactorily maintained. The number of unsatisfactorily maintained houses in 1953 was 19.

Langford Budville Common

Byelaws under the Commons Act 1899 are in force. The only action that was necessary during the year was the removal of campers on one occasion.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Sect: 50.

Arrangements were made for one burial where it appeared that suitable arrangements were not being made by the relatives of the deceased person.

